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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,552	07/22/2003	Fan-Yee Lin	MR2049-340	6033
4586	7590	05/03/2005	EXAMINER	
ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE 3458 ELLICOTT CENTER DRIVE-SUITE 101 ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043			HANAN, DEVIN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3745	

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/623,552

Applicant(s)

LIN, FAN-YEE

Examiner

Devin Hanan

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jwd (U.S. Patent 5,348,445).

Jwd discloses a ceiling fan blade with a top plate (one outside layer of 21) having solid patterns (a wood pattern) defined in a top surface thereof and a plurality of ridges (221) defined in a bottom surface of the top plate, and

a bottom plate (other outside layer of 21) having a top surface which is adhered to the bottom surface of the top plate at a periphery of the top plate and the ridges

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jwd in view of Chen (U.S. Patent 6,02,475).

Jwd discloses the above claimed elements, but does not disclose a plurality of spaces defined between the top plate and the bottom plate or a reinforcement ridge protruding from a central axis of the top surface of the top plate.

However, Chen teaches of a ceiling fan blade with a plurality of spaces (figure 4) between the top surface and the bottom surface for the purpose of providing flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life (col. 1 lines 40-42).

Chen also teaches of a reinforcement ridge protruding from the central axis of the top surface of the blade (central ridge of figure 4) for the purpose of providing flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life.

Since Jwd and Chen are from the same field of endeavor, ceiling fan blades, the purposes disclosed by Chen would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Jwd. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the plurality of spaces and the reinforcement ridges of Chen to Jwd in order to provide flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jwd in view of Curtin (U.S. Design Patent D479, 597).

Jwd discloses a ceiling fan blade with a top plate (one outside layer of 21) having a top surface thereof and a plurality of ridges (221) defined in a bottom surface of the top plate, and

a bottom plate (other outside layer of 21) having a top surface which is adhered to the bottom surface of the top plate at a periphery of the top plate and the ridges.

Jwd does not clearly disclose a solid pattern.

However, Curtin teaches of a solid pattern as a design for a ceiling fan blade.

Since Jwd and Curtin are from the same field of endeavor, ceiling fan blades, the design disclosed by Curtin would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Jwd. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the solid pattern of Curtin to the ceiling fan blade of Jwd as a design for the ceiling fan blade.

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jwd in view of Curtin as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chen.

Jwd, as modified, discloses the above claimed elements, but does not disclose a plurality of spaces defined between the top plate and the bottom plate or a reinforcement ridge protruding from a central axis of the top surface of the top plate.

However, Chen teaches of a ceiling fan blade with a plurality of spaces (figure 4) between the top surface and the bottom surface for the purpose of providing flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life (col. 1 lines 40-42).

Chen also teaches of a reinforcement ridge protruding from the central axis of the top surface of the blade (central ridge of figure 4) for the purpose of providing flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life.

Since Jwd and Chen are from the same field of endeavor, ceiling fan blades, the purposes disclosed by Chen would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Jwd. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in

the art to add the plurality of spaces and the reinforcement ridges of Chen to Jwd in order to provide flexibility to the blade to lengthen the useful life.

Prior Art

The patent to Bradt (U.S. Patent 6,146,097) was cited for its teaching of opaque covering material (col. 3-4 lines 66-2), upper bow member (42), lower bow member (43), ribs (40), hollow spaces between ribs, and an axial central spar (50).

The patent to Lin (U.S. Design Patent D438, 858) was cited for its teaching of a pattern on a ceiling fan blade.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devin Hanan whose telephone number is 571-272-6089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on 571-272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Devin Hanan
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3745



EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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5/2/05